

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: JULY 22, 2015

TO: MEMBERS OF THE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

FROM: SANDRA MARKS, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, T&ES

SUBJECT: AGENDA ITEM #5 - 2015 UPDATE TO THE TRANSPORTATION LONG RANGE PLAN

ISSUE: 2015 update to the Transportation Long Range Plan (LRP)

RECOMMENDATION: That the Transportation Commission (Commission) hold a public hearing, and approve the 2015 LRP.

DISCUSSION: At the June 17, 2015 Commission meeting, staff reviewed the proposed additions and deletions to the 2015 LRP Update and Commission initial ranking of priorities, using updated prioritization criteria recommended by a subcommittee of the Commission, and approved by the full commission. The 2015 updates include the following project additions:

- Mt. Vernon at Four Mile Road – Construct pedestrian / bicycle improvements as well as vehicular circulation improvements within the vicinity of the intersection of Mount Vernon Avenue and Four Mile Road. *(This project was removed from the 2014 LRP, but on October 15, 2014, the Transportation Commission approved this new language, and requested the project to be added to the 2015 LRP).*
- Mt. Vernon at Russell Road Intersection Improvements - safety improvements identified in the Arlandria Small Area Plan. *(This project was in the FY 2015-2024 CIP, but removed from the FY 2016-2025 CIP and therefore it is being added to the LRP).*
- DASH Bus Expansion – Purchase additional buses for the DASH fleet to accommodate future enhanced transit service. *(This project was in the FY 2015-2024 CIP, but removed from the FY 2016-2025 CIP and therefore it is being added to the LRP).*

Projects to be deleted from Transportation Long Range Plan:

- Prince Street / Cameron Street Bicycle Facility – Construction of a bicycle facility on both Prince Street and Cameron Street within Old Town. *(This project is now included in the FY 2016-2025 CIP).*

On June 17, 2015 the Commission reviewed the results of the individual prioritization exercise, and provided a number of recommendations as part of the project prioritization.

The Commission agreed that safety was an important issue along Mt. Vernon Avenue, and therefore, the following project ranking adjustments should be made:

- 2015 Project rank #7 (Mt. Vernon Avenue at Russell Road) – Adjust the ranking to follow 2015 Project rank #4 (Pedestrian / Bicycle connection from Potomac Yard to Four Mile Run Trail)
- 2015 Project rank #10 (Mt. Vernon at Four Mile Road) – Adjust the ranking to follow the adjusted Mt. Vernon at Russell Road project.
- 2015 Project rank #14 (Mt. Vernon Avenue at East/West Glebe Road intersection improvements) – Adjust the ranking to follow the adjusted Mt. Vernon at Four Mile Road project.

The Commission also discussed the feasibility of the Quaker Lane at Seminary Road/Janney's Lane intersection improvement (2015 Project rank #28), and requested that staff come back to the Commission with more information about the project to determine if it is needed. The intersection capacity improvement project was recommended to accommodate current and future BRAC related traffic, especially the high eastbound to southbound and northbound to westbound volumes. In March 2013, the Seminary Hill Association discussed the project and sent a letter to the Council opposing the project, and requested additional study over a wider area, an origin-destination study, and additional options, including a center lane on Quaker between King Street and Seminary Road. The I-395 High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) lane is currently under construction and will be completed in Spring of 2015. During the morning peak, northbound I-395 motorists will be able to use the ramp, and in the evening, motorists on Seminary Road will be able to access the HOV lanes heading south on I-395. The ramp will not prohibit traffic from making right turns onto Seminary Road during the morning peak. City staff recommend to keep the project on the LRP list until after the I-395 HOV ramp is completed and operational, to see the impacts of traffic going to and coming from the ramp.

The Commission also discussed the feasibility of the West End Transit Shop (2015 Project rank #23) given that the City has closed the Old Town Transit Store and developed a mobile store. The intent of the project is to provide additional commute information, passes and SmartBenefits once a new West End transit center (currently in the FY2015 Capital Improvement Program) is constructed at the Landmark Mall. The Commission asked that staff develop a revised project definition that more clearly states the project purpose. This has been completed as shown in Attachment 1.

ATTACHMENTS:

- Draft 2015 LRP Project List
- Draft 2015 LRP Studies List